



**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in this application:

**LISTING OF CLAIMS:**

Claims 1 to 10. (Canceled).

11. (Previously Presented) An orifice introducer device comprising:  
a tubular member having a distal end;  
a distal portion having a proximal end configured to be detachably secured to the distal end of the tubular member, the distal portion being selectively detachable when the orifice introducer device is positioned in the orifice, wherein, when detached from the distal end of the tubular member, the proximal end of the distal portion contracts so as to have a smaller diameter than the tubular member.

12. (Original) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, wherein, when secured to the distal end of the tubular member, a distal end of the distal portion has a smaller diameter than the tubular member.

Claim 13. (Canceled).

14. (Previously Presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, wherein the proximal end of the distal portion includes an annular groove configured to detachably secure the distal end of the tubular member.

15. (Original) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, further comprising a tubular insertion device configured to be insertable through the tubular member.

16. (Original) The orifice introducer device of claim 15, wherein the tubular insertion device is configured to detach the distal portion from the tubular member when inserted through the tubular member.

17. (Original) The orifice introducer device of claim 16, further comprising a recovery device for withdrawing the distal portion through the tubular member when the distal portion has been detached from the tubular member.

18. (Original) The orifice introducer device of claim 17, wherein the recovery device is a string attached to an inner wall of the distal portion.

19. (Original) The orifice introducer device of claim 16, wherein, when detached from the distal end of the tubular member, the proximal end of the distal

portion contracts so as to have a smaller diameter than the tubular insertion device so as to be withdrawn through the tubular insertion device.

20. (Original) The orifice introducer device of claim 11, wherein the orifice introducer device is configured to introduce a surgical device into an orifice.

Claims 21 to 27. (Canceled).

28. (Previously Presented) A method for using an orifice introducer device comprising the steps of:

- providing a tubular member having a distal end;
- detachably securing a proximal end of a distal portion to the distal end of the tubular member, a distal end of the distal portion having a smaller diameter than the tubular member;
- inserting the distal end into an orifice;
- selectively detaching the distal portion from the tubular member;
- the distal portion contracting so as to have a diameter smaller than a diameter of the tubular member; and
- withdrawing the distal portion through the tubular member.

Claims 29 to 30. (Canceled).

31. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 28, further comprising the step of inserting an element through the tubular member.

32. (Original) The method of claim 31, wherein the inserting step includes inserting a surgical device through the tubular member.

33. (Original) The method of claim 28, wherein the selective detaching step includes inserting a tubular insertion device through the tubular member for contacting an inner wall of the distal portion.

Claims 34 to 38. (Canceled).

39. (Previously Presented) An orifice introducer device comprising:

- a tubular member having a distal end, the tubular member having therein a surgical stapler apparatus;
- a second member being arranged internally within the tubular member and being configured to move longitudinally relative to the tubular member; and

a distal portion mounted to the distal end of the tubular member, the distal portion being selectively detachable from the tubular member by engagement with the second member when the second member is moved longitudinally.

40. (Previously Presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 39, wherein at least a portion of the distal portion having a smaller diameter than the tubular member.

41. (Previously Presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 39, wherein the proximal end of the distal portion includes an annular groove configured to detachably engage the distal end of the tubular member.

42. (Previously Presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 39, wherein the distal portion is conical.

43. (Previously Presented) The orifice introducer device of claim 39, wherein the distal portion is tapered.